

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes - Thursday, March 25, 2010

The meeting was held at the Town Hall and called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Tom Ragonese. Members present were Tom Ragonese, Dan Silbo, Richard Lepore, Carmelo Amoddio and Charlie Wood. Also present were Mike Hurley, Town Council Liaison and Kathleen Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

No comments.

B. Minutes – February 25, 2010.

Dan Silbo moved to approve the minutes of February 25, 2010. The motion was seconded by Rich Lepore and approved unanimously. Chairperson Ragonese noted that they had a good visit last month with Mr. Manousos from the Soccer Club.

C. Monthly Report – February 2010.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by Board members.

D. Letters and Announcements.

Ms. Bagley reported that the Dobmeier street sign was installed at the entrance road to Mill Woods Park. It is now visible from Prospect Street.

E. Old Business.

1. New Little League Field – Press Box Status.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that the lift has been installed and final electrical work is being completed. Ms. Bagley explained that the stairs leading to the second floor were installed to residential code and not commercial code. The Town is requesting a waiver from the State to keep them at the residential code.

2. Cove Park Boat Launch Ramp & Dock Process.

Ms. Bagley reported that the Inland Wetlands Commission approved the plan for the Cove docks and boat launch ramp. The next step is to submit to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Charlie Wood asked if funds were available for this project. No funds have been committed from the Town at this time. It is included in the Capital Improvement Plan, with the possibility of using funds from the Cove Preservation Fund (boater fees). Once the plan is approved, staff will be investigating grant opportunities. Mr. Wood reminded members that these improvements were in the Cove Master Plan along with the idea of using funds from the boaters. He noted that the Cove Preservation Fund should also be used to help with maintenance projects at the Cove. Ms. Bagley reported that the Fund is being used for projects at the Cove.

3. Status of 2010-11 Budget.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to give a report on the proposed budget for 2010-11. She reported that the Town Manager is finalizing his budget and will be presenting it to the Town Council in the near future. So far there are no major changes to the Parks and Recreation Budget. Dan Silbo asked if the State budget will be impacting the Town budget. Mike Hurley thought the Town would be OK for 2010-11, but the following year could be a problem.

F. New Business.

1. Little League Meeting.

Chairperson Ragonese reported on the Little League meeting he attended with Ms. Bagley. He thought it went well and there was a good exchange of information. He gave Little League an update on the different field projects completed to date. Little League members were pleased with the improvements to the ballfields. These projects included Greenfield softball field, Webb baseball field and improvements to the lighted field in Mill Woods Park. Little League had requested permission to use the lights on this field on Saturday nights. Since the Park Board gave permission for this use last year, Chairperson Ragonese told Little League to go ahead and use the field on Saturday nights. Little League discussed the possibility of a volunteer work day. They will coordinate with Parks and Recreation the work that needs to be done, what work will be done by the Town maintenance staff during the week and what work is remaining for volunteers. Also mentioned was the work that can be done by volunteers. Volunteers can do work that does not involve power equipment.

Little League has requested the use of Cottone Field for practice. Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to coordinate this request. The Soccer Club and High School sports are not using Cottone at certain times on weekends in late March and early April, so it was booked for Little League use. A discussion was held with Little League on field priorities. The first fields to be prepared for the spring season are for High School sports. The next priorities are the main fields for Little League, Men's Softball and Soccer Club, then the remainder of the fields. Little League members gave Chairperson Ragonese an update on work needed at the ballfields. This information will be passed on to the maintenance staff. Little League voted to reimburse the Town \$1,600 to help fund the renovation work at Greenfield softball field. The Town has already received this check. Chairperson Ragonese appreciates Little League's donation towards this renovation work. Carmelo Amoddio asked who is responsible for paying for the improvement projects. Chairperson Ragonese explained that the Town gets funds for improvements and works with other groups to help supplement those funds. Dan Silbo suggested that we continue to work at keeping communications open with the sport groups. Board members thanked Chairperson Ragonese for attending the Little League Board meeting.

2. Summer Brochure.

Ms. Bagley reported that the summer brochure will be in the Rare Reminder newspaper today and is being delivered to all households in Wethersfield.

3. Cottone Field.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to give Board members an update on the light project for the field and the budget. Ms. Bagley reported that the contractor is installing footing for the lights and he has dug the trenches for the power lines.

Current Funds

State Grant	\$100,000
Other Funds	<u>33,270</u> (from checking & donations)
Total	\$133,270

Balance \$3,570

Current Expenses

Engineering Firm	\$ 17,200
Special Labs	5,000
Contractor	<u>107,500</u>
Total	\$129,700

Remaining Items

CLP power	\$ 13,000 (potential CLP donation)
CLP transformer	5,000 (potential CLP donation)
Lights	<u>95,000</u> (quote from vendor-furnish & install)
Total	\$113,000

Private Fund Raising Efforts

Town	\$ 3,570 (balance from above)
Unico	2,000 pledge
Football	5,000 pledge
Soccer	<u>30,000</u> pledge
Total	\$ 40,570 pledged or received

Shortfall: \$72,430 (funds to be raised to meet \$113,000 balance needed to purchase remaining items)

Ms. Bagley suggested contacting the individuals working on this fundraising project to develop a plan to raise the remainder of the funds needed for the installation of the lights. Board members had suggestions for individuals and groups to contact.

G. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Dan Silbo and seconded by Rich Lepore to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director
Parks & Recreation Department